

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, OVIP (LOWENSTEIN, ALLARD K.) BE

SUBJECT: LOWENSTEIN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS

REF: USINFO BRUSSELS 171745 MARCH 77

1. CHIEF OF U.S. DEL TO 33RD ANNUAL SESSION OF U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ALLARD LOWENSTEIN, ATTENDED A WORKING LUNCH AT THE CHARGE'S HOME MARCH 17. BELGIANS PRESENT INCLUDED ALL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS AND BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN, WILLY KUIJPERS, HEAD OF NEWLY FORMED BELGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, HAIG.

2. MR. LOWENSTEIN COVERED MUCH OF GROUND COVERED REFTTEL. HE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL RESULTS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED GENEVA SESSION IN REFOCUSING WORLD ATTENTION FROM THE "IRON TRIANGLE" OF COUNTRIES HABITUALLY DISCUSSED TO INCLUDE OTHERS SUCH AS THE USSR AND UGANDA. HE NOTED THE STRONG SUPPORT THE U.S. DEL HAD

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RECEIVED ON THIS PROCEDURAL ASPECT FROM MANY PREVIOUSLY HOSTILE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THIS PROCEDURAL GAIN IN OTHER FORA SUCH AS ECOSOC. HE SIGNLED OUT THE USEFUL ROLE, WHICH SMALLER COUNTRIES COULD PLAY IN SUCH FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

3. THE QUESTIONS POSED MR. LOWENSTEIN BY THE BELGIANS
PRESENT FOCUSSED ON: (A) THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS IN GENEVA OF
THE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR: (B) WHETHER
THE U.S. BELIEVED THERE WAS A "THRESHOLD" BEYOND
WHICH IT WOULD BE "COUNTER PRODUCTIVE" TO PRESS THE
USSR ON HUMAN RIGHTS; AND (C) THE POLITICAL FEASIBILITY
OF TREASTING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES DIFFERENTLY IN DEGREES
IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE WORLD, WITH INITIAL
RECOUSE IN SOME CASES TO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH
AS THE OAU. (THESE QUESTIONS WERE A FOLLOWUP TO A
SUGGESTION MADE BY MR. LOWENSTEIN.)

4. MR. LOWENSTEIN'S REPLIES WERE TO A, AS IN REFTTEL;
TO B, THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT IGNORE HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUES, THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NEVER FELT IT NECESSARY
TO CEASE IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION TO ACHIEVE DETENTE
AND THAT MUTUAL INTEREST WOULD KEEP CONTACTS ALIVE; AND
TO C, THAT HIS SUGGESTION WAS A MEANS TO MAKE SOME
PROGRESSION HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE NOT
BE POSSIBLE.RENNER

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